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ABSTRACT

Intended for students taking the Grade 9 Language Arts Achievement Test in Alberta, Canada, this reading test contains 65 multiple choice test items related to the eight selections in the reading booklet and to a cartoon and four additional reading selections within this booklet. The questions examine the student's skills in (1) understanding meaning, (2) understanding and interpreting the relationship between form and content, and (3) understanding and interpreting human experience and values as expressed through literature. (SRT)

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Questions Booklet

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Grade 9 English Language Arts
ACHIEVEMENT TEST

Part B: Reading (Multiple Choice)

June 1986

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CS 210 012

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GRADE 9 ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS
ACHIEVEMENT TEST

PART B: Reading (Multiple Choice)

QUESTIONS BOOKLET

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Part B of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 65 questions in the Questions Booklet and eight reading selections in the Readings Booklet.

BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE A QUESTIONS BOOKLET AND A READINGS BOOKLET.

On the **ANSWER SHEET** provided, use an **HB** pencil to mark the **CORRECT** or **BEST** answer for each question as shown in the example below.

Example

What month of the year immediately follows July?

A. February
B. April
C. August
D. September

Answer Sheet

A	B	C	D
Ⓐ	Ⓑ	●	Ⓓ

Mark only one answer for each question. If you change an answer, erase your first mark completely. Answer all questions.

You **MAY** write in the test booklets. However, you **MUST** place your answers on the answer sheet provided.

You may **NOT** use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.

YOU WILL HAVE 1½ HOURS TO COMPLETE THIS TEST.

JUNE 1986

1. Read "Thieving Raffles" on page 2 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 6.

1. The meaning of the word "infallible" as it is used in line 11 is similar to the meaning of the word

   A. logical
   B. obvious
   C. debatable
   D. dependable

2. The writer establishes a rapid pace by using

   A. humorous words
   B. short sentences
   C. cause and effect
   D. questions and answers

3. The word that would BEST replace the phrase "in better shape" (line 31) is

   A. healthier
   B. stronger
   C. fresher
   D. nicer

4. That the speaker is not mathematically minded is BEST suggested by

   A. "never before have so few paid so much for sweet nothing at all" (lines 8-9)

   B. "whose figures add up to three, the way I add" (line 13)

   C. "we found it wouldn't go into the oven" (lines 25-26)

   D. "caught the turkey a good two inches below the crest of the breast bone" (lines 26-27)

Continued

5. The speaker's sense of humor is indicated by the statement

   A. "I have bought my turkey raffle tickets according to a system." (line 10)

   B. "I remember we did win once. That was about fifteen years ago, and we won two turkeys for the same Christmas." (lines 21-22)

   C. "I think we finally got the turkey in by laying it on its side. Or maybe it was by laying the stove on its side." (lines 29-30)

   D. "These are the same people that don't believe in Santa Claus." (line 41)

6. The writer's MAIN purpose in writing this story is to

   A. describe to readers the results of winning a turkey raffle
   B. acquaint readers with the problems of cooking large turkeys
   C. persuade readers that buying raffle tickets on turkeys is a worthless investment
   D. entertain readers by illustrating that buying turkey raffle tickets can be disastrous

II. Read "Flight of the Roller Coaster" on page 3 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 7 to 12.

7. The poet's choice of words in lines 3 and 4 appeals MOST to the reader's sense of

   A. sight
   B. touch
   C. motion
   D. hearing

8. The quotation that illustrates the shift from reality to fantasy is

   A. "screech of its wheels almost drowned out by the shriller cries of the riders" (lines 3-4)

   B. "with its landslide of screams, it rose in the air like a movieland magic carpet" (lines 5-6)

   C. "without fuss or fanfare swooped slowly across the amusement park" (lines 8-9)

   D. "headed leisurely out over the water, disappearing all too soon behind a low-flying flight of clouds" (lines 15-17)

9. The BEST meaning for "fanfare" in line 8 is

   A. joy
   B. fear
   C. nonsense
   D. ceremony

10. The description of the brakeman as "cucumber-cool" (line 12) suggests that he is

    A. alert and serious
    B. alone and isolated
    C. happy and careless
    D. nonchalant and calm

Continued

11. As the roller coaster disappears, the "many witnesses" (line 15) MOST LIKELY have a feeling of

A. gratitude that they are safely on the ground
B. regret that the magical moment does not last
C. alarm at the unexplained loss of their friends
D. loneliness as they watch their friends fly away

12. The experience described in this poem can BEST be summarized as an

A. unknown voyage
B. extraordinary adventure
C. imaginary escape from reality
D. unexpected thrill of a lifetime

III. Read "The Buyer" on pages 4 and 5 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 13 to 19.

13. The first negotiation fails because of the

A. buyer's desire to pay as little as possible
B. boy's emotional attachment to the pelts
C. buyer's habit of talking to himself
D. boy's deep concern for his father

14. The father refuses to sell the furs to the fur buyer because he

A. wants time to consider the offer
B. recognizes the unfairness of the offer
C. realizes that the buyer is the only one in the area
D. knows that the buyer wishes to buy only beaver pelts

15. The writer narrates the story through the eyes of the boy MAINLY to allow readers to

A. sympathize with the boy's feelings
B. understand the father's changes of mood
C. appreciate the father's anger toward the fur buyer
D. understand the economic hardships of the boy's family

16. After the failure of the first negotiation, the father states directly that he feels

A. furious
B. insulted
C. sorrowful
D. unappreciated

Continued

17. Had there been more than one buyer in the area that winter, the father would MOST PROBABLY have

A. sold some furs to all buyers
B. been more polite in his dealings
C. received a reasonable price for the furs
D. collected more furs throughout the winter

18. Which statement MOST CLEARLY reveals that the boy senses his father's tension?

A. "I kept a close watch on my father's silence." (lines 24-25)

B. "I could feel him being hunted." (line 25)

C. "The trap laid before him was a word that shouldn't have been said. . ." (lines 25-26)

D. "His silence was as hard as the ice covering the lakes. . ." (lines 31-32)

19. The MOST IMPORTANT idea developed in this story deals with the

A. father's need for a feeling of self-worth
B. father's misunderstanding of market conditions
C. boy's growing respect for the father's integrity
D. boy's lack of understanding of his family's needs

IV. Read the excerpt from "The Mystique of Mars" on pages 6 and 7 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 20 to 26.

20. The quotation that illustrates the "reality" of Mars is

A. "a sere landscape of frost, dust, and red rock" (line 2)

B. "in the ruins beside globe-girdling irrigation canals" (lines 4-5)

C. "a planet close enough to exchange cosmic greetings with" (lines 11-12)

D. "and canals, of course — as opposed to channels — had to have builders" (lines 23-24)

21. The BEST meaning for "covetous" in line 7 is

A. angry
B. envious
C. anxious
D. desperate

22. In the second paragraph the writer suggests that Earth's scientists have wanted to

A. invent complicated technologies for space research
B. communicate with people from other worlds
C. discover human-like life on other planets
D. uncover new scientific wonders

23. Karl Gauss, Charles Cros, and Nikolai Tesla proposed unusual methods in their attempts to

A. gain the attention of Martians
B. share their knowledge with Martians
C. develop an appreciation for Martians
D. understand the psychology of Martians

Continued

24. The mistranslation of *canali* as canals (lines 22-24) led to the belief that

A. river systems existed
B. life was present on Mars
C. visitors had been to Mars
D. telescopes were unreliable

25. The writer's reference to "diehards" in line 41 suggests that "diehards" are people who

A. are not convinced by the details
B. will believe any romantic theory
C. will not easily change their beliefs
D. are unwilling to consider all of the evidence

26. In the final paragraph the writer suggests that

A. fantasizing may lead to actual achievement
B. science is based on uncritical thinking
C. people will definitely colonize Mars
D. Martians are living entities

V. Read "Elephants" on pages 8 and 9 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 27 to 34.

27. The speaker's attitude toward his work on the highway is one of

A. approval
B. contempt
C. resignation
D. attentiveness

28. The metaphor "my knife caresses" in line 20 means that the knife is used with

A. delicate care
B. practiced skill
C. precise movements
D. deliberate efficiency

29. The BEST meaning for "scaling" in line 21 is

A. chipping
B. shaving
C. carving
D. slicing

30. The fact that the speaker uses his free moments carving soap suggests that he

A. wants to refresh his memory
B. tries to show off his artistic skill
C. wishes to make some extra money
D. hopes to escape the boredom of his job

31. The meaning of the word "limberlost" in line 39 is similar to the meaning of the word

A. jungle
B. cemetery
C. wilderness
D. undergrowth

Continued

32. The detail that links the Canadian Indian to the elephants is the

A. forest
B. highway
C. grey pueblo
D. lost graveyard

33. The speaker asks where the graveyard is (line 45) because he

A. would visit it if he knew its location
B. wants to understand and to be courteous to the boy
C. feels embarrassed that he does not know where it is
D. wants to use the knowledge that only the Indians have

34. The MAJOR thought developed by the poet is that

A. two cultural groups can easily coexist in harmony
B. modern highways can destroy ancient achievements
C. technological societies can be insensitive to native traditions
D. elephant graveyards are comparable to Indian burial grounds

VI. Read the excerpt from *A Doctor in the West* on pages 10 and 11 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 35 to 41.

35. The words "with grave nodding of heads and pursing of lips" (line 18) suggest that, to Dr. Gibson, the planners were

A. attempting to adopt Prairie planning methods
B. concerned about the Prairie weather conditions
C. worried about the consequences of the proposals
D. trying to appear knowledgeable about the proposals

36. Dr. Gibson thinks of "official jargon" (line 21) as language that

A. gets to the point
B. serves a technical purpose
C. results in delay and frustration
D. develops formal and serious communication

37. The contrasting attitudes toward Dr. Gibson's proposal are shown by

A. "They [the council] were enthusiastic" (line 2) and "Permission to proceed . . . might be given after due process of deliberation" (lines 19-20)

B. "They [the council] could not give me permission" (line 5) and "Permission to proceed was denied" (line 32)

C. "They [the council] . . . suggested that I should go into Calgary" (lines 5-6) and "We were informed that the project could not go forward" (lines 18-19)

D. "The council was anxious" (line 25) and "They knew no more than I did about the vagaries of climate" (lines 15-16)

38. Dr. Gibson's suspicion that bureaucratic action is slow is BEST proven by

A. "They could not give me permission to build without seeking the Commission's approval . . . " (lines 5-6)

B. "My next step was the matter of an interview with the planning commission." (line 8)

C. "They obviously intended to take their duties very seriously . . . " (lines 16-17)

D. "Implementation . . . was to come nearly twenty years later!" (lines 32-33)

39. The words "experienced" and "been" (line 30) are italicized to emphasize Dr. Gibson's feelings of

A. frustration
B. hostility
C. surprise
D. dislike

40. The statement that MOST STRONGLY illustrates Dr. Gibson's determination to proceed with his proposals is

A. "I informed the town council that we would be building on Mrs. Hogge's land . . . " (lines 1-2)

B. "In high spirits, *Jim* and I drove into Calgary and presented ourselves . . . " (line 12)

C. "But if we have to wait for a few months it'll be winter!" (line 26)

D. "I announced that . . . Walter Thompson would start up his bulldozer . . . " (lines 34-35)

41. That Dr. Gibson's decision to build without official approval was a wise one is MOST CLEARLY indicated by

A. "People came . . . to offer the builder advice, all of which he listened to with great good humor." (lines 37-39)

B. "When it was finished, the house was a warm and comfortable place." (line 41)

C. "The living room, lined with birch, was to see many a happy gathering . . . " (lines 41-42)

D. "After surviving the cold winter gales . . . I one day received . . . a letter from the planning commission telling me that I could build the house!" (lines 43-45)

VII. Read "Winter Uplands" on page 12 in your Readings Booklet and answer questions 42 to 46.

42. The impact of the first line is established through the poet's use of

A. rhythm
B. setting
C. comparison
D. alliteration

43. In lines 1 to 4, phrases such as "forsaken ground," "long white drift," and "great silence" contribute MOST to a mood of

A. hopelessness
B. boredom
C. solitude
D. sadness

44. The word that is the CLOSEST in meaning to "bound" as it is used in line 4 is

A. held
B. obliged
C. promised
D. surrounded

45. The poet's description in lines 7 to 10 suggests a

A. transition from day to night
B. departure from reality to fantasy
C. contrast of buildings with countryside
D. comparison of permanence to uncertainty

46. The poet's positive attitude toward his environment is BEST illustrated by the words

A. "Across the open fields for miles ahead" (line 6)
B. "The stars that singly, then in flocks appear" (line 9)
C. "And then the golden moon to light me home" (line 12)
D. "The crunching snowshoes and the stinging air" (line 13)

VIII. Read "The Dinner Party" on page 13 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 47 to 54.

47. The writer uses the opening paragraph to

A. establish the purpose for the story
B. establish the setting for the story
C. indicate the sequence of events to come
D. indicate the intentions of the characters

48. The American naturalist is aware of a cobra's reactions to sudden movement because he

A. is widely travelled
B. has great self-control
C. is keenly observant of events
D. has extensive knowledge in his field

49. A usual place for a cobra to hide in an Indian home would be

A. outside the door
B. under the table
C. in the rafters
D. on the veranda

50. The American's actions in lines 23 to 28 show that his handling of the situation is

A. inconsiderate
B. adventurous
C. resourceful
D. impulsive

51. The writer accomplishes her purpose of entertainment MAINLY by

A. crafting a suspenseful story
B. developing interesting characters
C. describing an incident in the colonies
D. convincing readers of the value of being calm

Continued

52. The main idea of the story is introduced through the conflicting views of

A. the host and the American
B. the colonel and the young girl
C. Mrs. Wynnes and the colonel
D. Mrs. Wynnes and the American

53. The story focuses MAINLY on a

A. demonstration of courageous composure
B. discussion at a formal gathering
C. commotion caused by a cobra
D. display of genuine concern

54. What do the events in the story suggest about self-control?

A. Men possess more self-control than women.
B. Women possess more self-control than men.
C. Self-control can be affected by group discussions.
D. Self-control is dependent upon individual personality traits.

IX. Read the cartoon strip and answer question 55.

55. Sally's statement and the expression on her face in frame 6 indicate that her manner is

A. timid
B. arrogant
C. stubborn
D. confident

X. Choose the best meaning for the underlined word in each sentence.

56. A monochromatic painting, worth a fortune, was acquired by the Canadian art gallery.

A. having tones of one color
B. done by one artist
C. framed with chrome
D. painted by a Canadian

57. When you make that decision, first determine whether the opportunity overbalances the disadvantages.

A. affects
B. increases
C. impresses
D. outweighs

XI. Read the following and answer questions 58 and 59.

RADIO COMMERCIAL

XYZ is the strongest glue in the world. It is so strong that even a single drop has amazing results. It is safe to use, and is not flammable. The formula for XYZ was developed when scientists were searching for a super adhesive to use on spacecraft. It is used in science and industry. Get an inexpensive tube of XYZ and use it for construction or repair.

58. The statement that the glue is "not flammable" is probably

A. untrue
B. an unsubstantiated claim
C. a substantiated claim
D. inaccurate description

59. A persuasive device used by the writer in the commercial is

A. humor
B. threat
C. fantasy
D. scientific claim

XII. Read the following and answer questions 60 to 62.

> *Between April and October the Persian Gulf is dotted with the small boats of* pearl divers. Some seventy-five thousand of them are busy diving down and bringing up pearl-bearing oysters. These oysters are not the kind we eat as the edible oyster produces pearls of little or no value. You may, however, have heard tales of diners who discovered pearls and sold them for great sums of money. These stories are entertaining but not accurate.

60. What is the main idea of the passage?

A. Pearl-gathering season in the Persian Gulf is April to October.
B. Seventy-five thousand divers search for pearl-bearing oysters.
C. Edible oysters don't produce valuable pearls.
D. There are a lot of boats in the Persian Gulf from April to October.

61. What can be concluded from the passage?

A. Only one pearl diver can use each small boat.
B. Many people in the Persian Gulf generate some income by diving for pearl-bearing oysters.
C. Diners often find pearls while eating.
D. Diving for pearl-bearing oysters is a very tiring occupation.

62. What is suggested in the passage?

A. Pearls are only found in the Persian Gulf.
B. All oysters produce pearls.
C. Pearl divers are very rich people.
D. Many people believe that all pearls are valuable.

XIII. Read the following and answer questions 63 and 64.

Betty had always wanted to travel, but her family could not finance a trip for her. She was determined to make her dream come true. She read books about travel. She went to movies set in other lands. She attended travelogues. All of this made her more eager to travel, but she still had no funds. She took a job as a waitress at a hamburger stand, but she found that she could not save very much money. She told her boss she needed to make more money in order to travel. Because she was a good worker, her boss encouraged her to stay, and gave her a small raise. About a month later the boss told Betty that his brother needed someone to travel to Europe with him and his wife, to take care of their small daughter. He arranged for her to meet his brother, and Betty got the job. She was going to go to Europe!

63. Which of the following details from the above passage supports the idea that Betty is ambitious?

A. Betty took a job as a waitress at a hamburger stand.
B. Betty had always wanted to travel.
C. Betty could not save very much money.
D. Betty's family could not finance a trip for her.

64. Of all the things Betty did, which was the most important in terms of getting to travel?

A. telling her boss she wanted to travel
B. telling her boss she needed more money
C. attending travelogues
D. reading travel books

XIV. Read the following and answer question 65.

Many Canadians are finally becoming concerned about their decline in physical fitness. Programs such as Participaction advocate that Canadians not only exercise more, but that they consume more natural food. Natural food diets and exercise programs have rapidly increased in popularity.

65. From the passage we can conclude that

A. more Canadians are now exercising than a few years ago
B. only natural foods are healthy
C. Participaction has the only Canadian exercise program
D. all Canadians are becoming physically fit

CREDITS

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